



# WASHINGTON State Employee

## The BIG GREEN MACHINE

Convention 2013 reports: below, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8

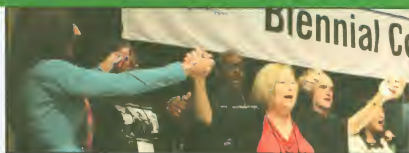
@ Convention '13



The 45th Biennial Convention of the Federation is history, with four new officers, a series of resolutions to direct the union for the next two years and a renewed commitment to organizing, political action, field services, communications and all other facets that have put this union at the forefront in the fight for working families.

Delegates elected Sue Henriksen of Local 53 as president, Thornton Alberg of Local 443 as vice president, Terri McCullough of Local 1466 as secretary and Don Hall of Local 1466 as treasurer.

The convention welcomed 370 delegates, 15 alternates and 37 guests.



From left: Henriksen, Alberg, McCullough and Hall take oath of office Oct. 6 from WFSE/AFSCME Executive Director Greg Devereux.



### IN THEIR OWN WORDS

**Q** uote: "Immediately after we joined the union, a lot of things changed...."

"The more we stuck together, the stronger we became.... The union gives us a voice and power. Alone, it is David versus Goliath. But with the union, you have the backing of an army to fight for you."

**Dwayne Johnson**, Local 1181 (above)

Addressing the WFSE/AFSCME Convention Oct. 6 on the successful drive to win a union at the Washington Youth Academy (Military Department)

## Wha

## new health care contract agreement

### ■ Online ratification; check your mail for voting instructions

The WFSE/AFSCME-led Health Care Coalition of state employee unions on Oct. 1 reached tentative agreement on a health care agreement that holds the line on premium share, out-of-pocket costs – and includes a commitment to immediately begin jointly developing a state employee wellness program.

The contract covering all 60,000 represented classified state employees even includes a provision allowing point-of-service costs to be reduced

as a possible incentive in the wellness program that will aim to improve employee health and reduce health care costs.

The breakthrough came after WFSE/AFSCME and other union members flooded the governor's office with calls and e-mails for a fair health care agreement.

The governor's office reported it was the most messages they'd received on a single issue.

The state and the Health Care Coalition begin this month to jointly develop wellness initiatives that would

### Health care matters



85 percent paid by the state and 15 percent by employees. This is the face of editorial board and anti-state employee think tank pressure to make employees pay at least 33 percent more for health insurance premiums.

"They just don't get it – your sacrifices over the past

begin implementation by Jan. 1, 2014.

Under the Health Benefits Amount agreement, the premium share remains at

five years saved the state during the Great Recession – and all they want to do is balance the budget on our backs," said WFSE/AFSCME Executive Director Greg Devereux. "This agreement rejects that mentality and keeps premium share at the current 85/15 split."

The agreement makes some changes to the current Uniform Medical Plan caps on out-of-pocket costs to allow lower fees tied to wellness and to accommodate the new pharmacy provisions of the Affordable Care Act. This is

as just a one-year agreement taking effect July 1, 2014, and affecting the health plans for calendar year 2015. That's because the coalition couldn't reach agreement last year on a full, two-year health care article. The terms and conditions of the old agreement stay in effect until June 30, 2014 (affecting all of 2014). The new agreement covers premium share, co-pays and deductibles for ONLY the plan year starting Jan. 1, 2015. The agreement met the Oct. 1 deadline to have a deal in place for a 2014 supplemental budget request.

2014 open enrollment information, key changes on bariatric. See 2.

WFSE/AFSCME and other unions joined growing outrage during the federal shutdown caused by Republican leaders in the U.S. House. Here, an Oct. 14 march in Olympia.



The federal shutdown ended as this went to press Oct. 16. The shutdown hurt hundreds of WFSE/AFSCME members and the services they provided.

- The Employment Security Department had furloughed 418 employees and reduced hours for another 450 workers. ESD was heavily impacted because 87 percent of its funding comes from the federal government.
- Members had contacted the Insole Administration to continue its efforts to mitigate state impacts.
- And furloughed members were encouraged to apply for hardship relief from the Foundation for Working Families (related story page 8).



# WFSE/AFSCME VOTERS' GUIDE 2013

It's an off-year election when there aren't many candidates or issues on the ballot. WFSE/AFSCME has made endorsements in two key special state Senate races and one key local proposition. And opposes one state ballot issue. Here are WFSE/AFSCME's recommendations:

## NO! on I-517 Protect our speech and property rights

**I-517 is intrusive.** Allows out-of-state paid signature gatherers to get to you just about anywhere, including schools, hospitals -- even high school sports stadiums! **I-517 infringes on property rights.** Takes away storeowners' rights to regulate where initiative petition gatherers can approach customers. **I-517 infringes on free speech rights.** You may be charged with a misdemeanor if you ask petition signature gatherers to leave you alone.

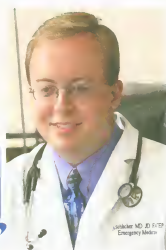
SOURCE: no517.org • Watch the TV commercial: <http://www.no517.org/watch/>



For members in the **26th Legislative District**, WFSE/AFSCME recommends:

## Sen. Nathan Schlicher

STATE SENATE  
26TH DIST.  
DEMOCRAT



Schlicher MD, JD '17  
Emergency Medicine

Sen. Nathan Schlicher is an emergency room physician and community leader. He's voted 100% right on working families' issues.

SOURCES: WSLC voting record; [leg.wa.gov](http://leg.wa.gov) roll calls on (in 2013) ESSB 5851, ESSB 5905, ESSB 5911, ESSB 5127, 2ESSB 5895, ESSB 5891, ESSB 2038, (in 2012) HB 2830, (in 2009) 2SHB 2106; WFSE/AFSCME For the Record, 2011-2013; [nathanforstate.org](http://nathanforstate.org); [janangel.com](http://janangel.com); [alec.org](http://alec.org).

The choice for Sen. Nathan Schlicher is clear  
**Nathan Schlicher is on our side**

Sen. Nathan Schlicher  
Democrat



Nathan Schlicher is an emergency room doctor who's fighting to make health care more affordable for working families.

As state senator, Nathan Schlicher refused to take his pay for the long special sessions this year. He proposes withholding pay for all legislators if they can't pass a budget on time.

Nathan Schlicher will fight to close tax loopholes that benefit Wall Street banks and big corporations. He won't balance the budget on our backs.

In 2013, Sen. Schlicher stood with us and against the Senate Republicans' attacks on our pensions, health benefits and injured workers' compensation, and their plan to raid public works funds. Sen. Schlicher opposed outsourcing of our jobs.



**His opponent is against us**

Jan Angel  
Republican

Jan Angel cares more about the big corporations. She is state chairperson of the Legislative Exchange Council that pushes corporate special interests, like cutting our pay and benefits.

Jan Angel not only kept her pay in 2013 but went on a European cruise during special session in 2011!

Jan Angel voted to keep tax loopholes that let corporations get away with not paying their fair share in taxes.

Rep. Jan Angel has voted against us 80% of the time. She's voted against our pensions, collective bargaining rights and help for injured workers. She voted to outsource our jobs.

## 8th Legislative District:

## Phil Lemley

STATE SENATE • 8TH DIST.  
REPUBLICAN



A Richland City Councilman and community activist, Phil Lemley wants to go to Olympia to "ensure our middle class workers the ability to live, work, play and retire."

His opponent **voted against us** on pensions, health benefits and help for injured workers.

## SeaTac Prop 1 (Fair Wage Initiative)

**Prop 1 helps us all**

It's basic economics for the middle class. Improving wages for those on the lower end of the scale leads to higher wages in the rest of the economy.

**YES! Prop 1**

**Good for SeaTac. Good for us all.**



## Health benefits 2014:

Open enrollment for your 2014 health plans is Nov. 1-30.

That's when you can switch plans if you want.

You can get information online from the Public Employees Benefits Board at: <http://www.hca.wa.gov/pebb/Pages/index.aspx>

You can have questions answered in person at Health Benefits Fairs that run from Nov. 1-18. Fairs will be in Bellevue, Bellingham, Cheney, Ellensburg, Everett,

Lakewood, Mount Vernon, Olympia, Pasco, Port Angeles, Pullman, Seattle, Shoreline, Spokane, Tumwater, Vancouver, Walla Walla, Wenatchee and Yakima. You can find the full schedule online at: <http://www.hca.wa.gov/pebb/Pages/fairs.aspx>

There are some important changes you should check out.

One came from an effort by WFSE/AFSCME to expand bariatric surgery coverage

under the Uniform Medical Plan to bring it in line with that offered by Group Health and that follows national standards.

The union laid the groundwork and the Public Employees Benefits Board concluded there were additional categories of patients and clinical conditions that benefit from bariatric surgery, according to the PEBB minutes of July 10.

According to the PEBB

website, under the expanded Uniform Medical Plan coverage in 2014, the criteria for consideration of bariatric surgery coverage changes from body mass index (BMI) of 40 to:

- BMI of 40; or
- BMI of 35 – 39 with diabetes or two related conditions that have documented evidence of failure to control;
- Coverage of gastric sleeve is permitted if recommended by the performing facility.



## Washington State Employee

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# THE CONVENTION VALUES

## IN THEIR OWN WORDS

**Q** uote: "This is historic. If we can help stop corporate greed and protect workers' rights in Seatac, we can start to turn the tide in this nation toward justice."

—Ryan Harris, Local 443  
Convention Delegate and  
Next Wave, addressing delegates  
Oct. 5 before Fair Wage march.

## Community organizing



Thanks to the efforts of the union's Next Wave Committee of young leaders, convention delegates on Oct. 5 marched for the Living Wage Initiative in Seatac, where underpaid hotel, airlines and other employees work.

They tramped to the corporate headquarters of Alaska Airlines, which tried to keep the measure off the ballot.

This is part of the stepped-

up movement to reach into the community to join in the fight for the Middle Class.

"We can't do it alone..." AFSCME President Lee Saunders said earlier in the day. "We've got to make every effort to engage our partners, our allies, our coalitions to stand with us in our battles...If we expect them to stand with us, then we must stand with them."



## Nine resolutions, one constitutional amendment adopted

■ The biennial convention is the highest decision-making body of the union

- Delegates voted to amend the WFSE/AFSCME constitution to allow a non-voting representative of the Retired Public Employees Council of Washington on the union's Statewide Executive Board (Amendment 2, as amended).

- They also adopted the following resolutions:

- Resolution 3 (Layoff Units/Institutions, as amended)
- Resolution 5 (Location of WFSE Conventions – as advice to Executive Board)
- Resolution 6 (Transparency/ Written Notifications of Decisions of Non-Support from Statewide Grievance Committee, as amended)
- Resolution 8 (Shop Steward Oath)

- Resolution 9 (Big Green Machine van or truck)
- Resolution 10 (Student Debt Assistance)
- Resolution 11 (Organizing Retired Members)
- Resolution 12 (Local 1671 Dues)
- Resolution 14 (In Support of Farmworkers, as amended)

See ACTION, page 8



## IN THEIR OWN WORDS

**Q** uote: (At convention and after, we must) "get everyone riled up and become PEOPLE members so we can get out there and advocate and support and fight for our rights."

—Jamerica Brown, Local 843  
Convention Delegate  
PEOPLE Committee member

# THE CONVENTION HONORS

## Carol says goodbye

Outgoing WFSE/AFSCME President Carol Dotlich received a surprise -- a well-deserved honor for her nine years as union president and 44 years as an activist.

AFSCME President Lee Saunders flew in a day early to lead the ac-

### IN THEIR OWN WORDS

—Tashia Hankerson,  
Local 1488  
Convention Delegate



**Q** uote: "I will...never, ever be the same if it had not been for WFSE/AFSCME and Carol... who always encouraged me."

lades for Dotlich at the Oct. 4 convention banquet. (Dotlich finished out her term as president after retiring from state service.)

"There is not a stronger trade unionist, one who is dedicated, one who is committed, not only in this state, but across this country, and that's Carol..." Saunders said.

"She bleeds AFSCME Green every single day."

"You've been my family all these many years," Dotlich told the audience. "I can't tell you how much I have loved the journey we have taken together."

Dotlich received other accolades throughout the weekend, including a special President's Cup from her home local of Local 793 at Western State Hospital. The local also renamed its highest honor for shop stewards the Carol Dotlich Shop Steward of the Year Award.



'She bleeds AFSCME Green every single day'

Carol Dotlich is honored by AFSCME President Lee Saunders at Oct. 4 banquet.



**ABOVE:** Local 793 President James Robinson presents special President's Cup to Dotlich Oct. 5. Local 793 is Dotlich's old local.

**AT RIGHT:** Dotlich shows off special afghan made in her honor by Local 443 member T. Hall.



## Leadership



Margaret McDonald, Local 843, received the Roselia Charvet Leadership Award Oct. 5 for her 45 years of activism and grace in the face of unfair managers.

## Job actions



Previous winner Julianne Moore (right) of Local 1326 on Oct. 6 presented the Job Action of the Year Award to The Evergreen State College Student Support Services Staff Union for their one-day strike and months of job actions that won a fair, first contract. Allie Van Nostran (center) accepted the award from Moore and Carol Dotlich (left).

## Organizing



Former WFSE/AFSCME President Howard Jorgenson (left) conferred the Organizing Award named in his honor to Max Phipps and Laura Little of Local 1020 for their internal organizing efforts to mitigate the 3 percent pay cuts at Everett Community College in their last contract.



Volunteer Member Organizers (VMOs) were recognized Oct. 6 with certificates.

This came during a presentation spotlighting successful organizing efforts at the Military Department Youth Academy, TESC, supported living and the Liquor Control Board, among others.

### MORE ONLINE



Convention coverage and photos:  
<http://www.wfse.org/convention-photos/>



## THE CONVENTION HONORS

### Valor

Gov. Jay Inslee presented the 2013 WFSE/AFSCME Medal of Valor Awards to:



Liquor Enforcement Officer **Almir Karic** (left) and Sgt. **Paul Magerl** (both Local 313), who thwarted a bank robbery near Vancouver in April.



Local 1299 member **Angie Garces**, who performed CPR to save the life of a client who collapsed in the Wenatchee Community Service Office in July.

*"I'm very proud to be part of the greatest union in the state of Washington."*

Sgt. **Paul Magerl**  
 Liquor Control Board  
 Local 313  
 Co-recipient of  
 Medal of Valor Award

### Courage

*"I will continue to do everything within my power to ensure that you get the respect that you deserve in the job that you do."*

Rep. **Pat Sullivan**, co-recipient of the 2013 WFSE/AFSCME George Masten Courage Award

*"I wanted to thank you for the work that you do. It's extremely important."*

Rep. **Frank Chopp**, co-recipient of the 2013 WFSE/AFSCME George Masten Courage



The union's George Masten Courage Award for individuals outside the Federation who've stood behind WFSE/AFSCME members went to Speaker of the House Rep. **Frank Chopp** of the 43rd Leg. Dist. (left) and House Majority Leader Rep. **Pat Sullivan** of the 47th Leg. Dist. They led the effort to block bad bills to cut pensions, health care, workers' comp and collective bargaining rights.

### PEOPLE

Rainier School Local 491 President **Joy Cage** accepts the Howard Ocobock PEOPLE Award at the Oct. 4 convention banquet for the local with the highest percentage of PEOPLE MVP members.



## IN THEIR OWN WORDS

**Dolly Adeyemi,**  
Local 341  
Convention Delegate



**Q** uote: "We're looking forward to the people who are going to guide us."



**Bing Bristol,**  
Local 443  
Convention Delegate

**Q** uote: "I think it's (the convention) is a great opportunity to spread the word of who we are and also to initiate new members. I see a lot of new people."

## Saunders: 'Enough is enough'

AFSCME President Lee Saunders in his convention keynote address Oct. 5 blasted the "extremists" in Congress and the "noise machine" attacking pensions and other benefits.

The federal shutdown has affected WFSE/AFSCME members in state programs funded by the federal government, including Employment Security and Health.

"This is no way to run a government," Saunders said.

"We've got to make our voices heard loud and clear."

"Enough is enough!"

Saunders said attacks on defined-benefit pensions and other benefits



AFSCME President  
Lee Saunders

try to turn middle class workers in the private sector against those in the public service.

"That noise machine has been very successful and effective," Saunders said.

"It seems to me that we've got to figure out a way and we're working in coalition with other organizations to flip that argument."

"And here's the question: The question should not be, 'Why do you have something that I don't have and we want to take it away from you?' The question should be, 'We have it, we're going to keep it and we're going to fight that you have it.' That's what the question should be."

"This should not be a rush to the bottom."

## Inslee: 'I like being on this team'

Gov. Jay Inslee applauded WFSE/AFSCME members and assured them his Results Washington initiative is about improving services "while trying to make your jobs easier and less stressful."

He said the health care agreement reached Oct. 1 with the Federation and other unions holds the line on costs instead of asking state employees to once more make sacrifices.

He thanked the members for

standing with him and other legislative leaders against attacks on working families.

"We're all in this together...."

Inslee told the Oct. 4 banquet audience. "Washington state is going to move forward, not backward, and that includes taking care of our working families."

"I like being on this team," the one-time state high school basketball champ said.



Gov. Jay Inslee

## Devereux: Fight back against 'scoundrels'

WFSE/AFSCME Executive Director Greg Devereux touted the union's accomplishments and outlined a

course to engage members even more.

And part of that is to fight back against the "scoundrels,"

outsourcers and others who attack public employees as the villains in The Great Recession.



WFSE/AFSCME Executive  
Director Greg  
Devereux

"I'm sick and tired of Democrats, Republicans, bankers, financiers...who created the damn problem and then they blame us," Devereux said Oct. 5.

## Bipartisanship

### Murray: 'The struggle is not over'



Democratic Sen. Ed Murray of the 43rd Legislative District praised the WFSE/AFSCME LGBTIQ Committee for its leadership in winning marriage equality in Washington.

Murray, a leader in that fight, said "the struggle is not over."

"We have a lot that we have to do to make this a national movement..." Murray told the Oct. 5 breakfast audience. "It's an exciting time, but a difficult time."

### Hill: 'You're our eyes and ears'



Republican Sen. Andy Hill of the 45th District, chair of the Senate Ways and Means Committee, applauded state employees for ideas that saved \$200 million dollars.

"You're our eyes and ears on the ground," Hill told the WFSE/AFSCME Conservative Caucus breakfast meeting Oct. 6.

Conservative Caucus members challenged Hill to defend lunchbox issues and resist attacks on state employees of all political stripes who make up the safety net.

## IN THEIR OWN WORDS



**Q** uote: "I think there's a lot of enthusiasm. I think we did a lot of good stuff this year and I can only hope that we'll do better in the years to come."

—Tom Tveit,  
Local 1326  
Convention Delegate

## Solidarity

"We are at a critical turning point in our state and in our nation. There's no more room for complacency....(we have to) become transformative in our walk and to become transformative in our talk."

—Jeff Johnson, Washington State Labor  
Council President



"Remember that pensions and health care are at risk after you retire and we need to make sure that we protect retirees."

—Maria Britton-Sipe,  
Retired Public Employees Council of  
Washington/AFSCME  
Executive Director



"We are the change that has to occur. If we don't help lead this change, it won't happen.... We have to change in our own house and we have to broaden our arms out to the whole working class and say, 'Everybody is welcome in our movement.'"

—Ken Allen, Oregon  
AFSCME Council 75  
Executive Director





# MEMBERS IN ACTION

## Everett Community College



Everett CC Local 1020 members held a dinner informational meeting Sept. 20 with EVCC custodians. Chief Shop Steward Laura Little and Local 1020 President Max Phipps were available for questions.



At Oct. 3 EVCC Lunch 'n Learn. Front (from left): Beverly Nunes and Terry OKrucky. Back (from left): Laura Little, Bernita Bontrager, Tove Price, Elsa Haag and Judy Thomas.



EVCC Classified Staff Union Breakfast Sept. 17 where 130 classified staff attended. Local 1020 paid for the breakfast.

## Spokane Stewards in Action



Stewards at Sept. 22 Stewards in Action training in Spokane.

## This union works for me!

By Judy Lumm

WFSE/AFSCME Field Supervisor (Olympia)

Sometimes a little work and a lot of heart can make a big difference in a member's life.

That happened in September when a custodian at the Department of Enterprise Services (DES) came to WFSE for help after having a Labor and Industries claim denied. The WFSE/AFSCME

council representative noticed the member had mistakenly written incorrect information on the L&I form, which resulted in the claim being denied.

Council Rep **Stacie Leanos** caught the error after reviewing the L&I claim and researching the member's history of employment.

Council Rep **Tamarae McLaughlin** assisted Stacie by interpreting for the member, whose primary language is Cantonese.

Stacie contacted DES and

they are now in the process of re-filing the claim for reconsideration. Thanks to the Council Reps' insistence, the agency also informed L&I that the member would need an interpreter for any further questioning or paperwork.

Initially, the custodian did not want to come to "the union." However other members encouraged her to seek assistance. If she had not asked for help, she would have no sick leave and medical expenses that should not be her responsibility.

## WSU's Stamper and union win major victory against discrimination

**Update on last month's front-page story about Gerry Stamper, the Washington State University Local 1066 member.** He and the union fought the discrimination against him because of his effective union representation of co-workers on the main campus of WSU in Pullman.



Stamper

On Sept. 30, Stamper and WFSE/AFSCME reached an agreement

with WSU that overturns his demotion, reimburses him for lost pay, removes a disciplinary letter and related notes from his personnel file and pays him administrative leave until his retirement on Oct. 16.

The demotion was replaced with a one-month reduction in salary.

This settles an unfair labor practice complaint and grievance.

Stamper, a veteran Local 1066 shop steward and activist, showed what you can do when union members stand together with a strong contract and a team of union professionals who defended his rights under the law.

## SHARED LEAVE REQUESTS

If you've been approved to receive shared leave by your agency or institution, you can place a notice here. Once you've been approved by your agency or institution, WFSE/AFSCME can place your shared leave request here and online. Please include a contact in your agency, usually in human resources, for donors to call. E-mail the editor at [tim@wfse.org](mailto:tim@wfse.org). Or call 1-800-562-6002.

\* The following could use a donation of eligible unused annual leave or sick leave or all or part of your personal holiday:

**Jennifer Hinson-Currin**, an adjudicator 3 with DSHS in Tumwater and a member of Local 443, has been approved for shared leave. Contact: your human resource office.

**Emily Corder**, a nursing assistant at the Spokane Veterans' Home and a member of Local 1221, is in need of shared leave because of an ongoing health condition. Contact: Sandie Wollan, (509) 344-5777.

**Jennifer Harlan**, a medical assistance specialist 2 with the Health Care Authority in Olympia and a member of Local 443, has been approved for shared leave. Her family recently experienced a sudden tragedy that resulted in the murder of her mother.

She has been out of the office since learning of the crime and will continue to be out of the office as she recovers from the life-altering personal impacts of the tragedy. She has been approved for shared leave through Nov. 4, 2013. Contact: Nicole Rivera, (360) 725-2134.

**Bernie Cliff**, a social services specialist 2 at the Kennewick Community Service Office of DSHS and a member of Local 1253, has been approved for shared leave because of a serious medical condition. Contact: your human resource office.

**Angie Hansen-Moore**, an office assistant 3 at Western State Hospital in Lakewood and a member of Local 793, is

continuing her lengthy battle against lung cancer. She has exhausted all leave. Contact: The Western State Hospital Human Resource Department, or your human resource office.

**Karen Mork**, a financial services specialist 4 with the Chehalis Community Service Office of DSHS and a member of Local 862, has been approved for shared leave after suffering a multiple fracture of her ankle and heel. The impairment will keep her off work for three to six months. Contact: your human resource office.

**Christy Sanders**, a support enforcement officer 2 with DSHS in Seattle and a mem-

ber of Local 843, is recovering from surgery on her broken elbow and is in need of shared leave. She has exhausted all leave. Contact: Anita, (206) 341-7385, or your human resource office.

**Rachel Saunders**, a health services consultant 3 at the Department of Health in Tumwater and a member of Local 443, is still in need of shared leave because of a serious health condition. She has exhausted all leave. Contact: Kim Kenderesi, (360) 236-4058.

**Carrie Angel** who works for the Employment Security Department in Tacoma has been approved for shared leave through Oct. 31. Contact: your human resource office.

## Locals at convention

■ Here are just some of the delegations from WFSE/AFSCME locals at the 2013 convention



### Women's/Equal Partners Tea

Lynne Dodson, secretary-treasurer of the Washington State Labor Council (left), talks to attendees at the Oct. 5 convention tea sponsored by the WFSE/AFSCME Women's and Equal Partners Committee.

### ACTION, from page 3



Brett Clubbe, Local 53, urges delegates to sign the petition in support of a fair wage reopener at WSU.

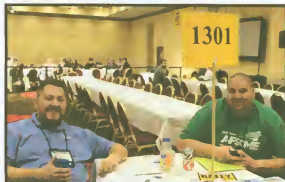
Also:  
Resolution 7 on Local Financial Assistance for Union Functions was referred to the WFSE/AFSCME Executive Board.

• Other measures debated, but not adopted

A convention is about open debate and decision-making so the delegates also discussed but ultimately voted down several other measures:

Constitutional Amendment 1 (Removing the Dues Cap) – Not adopted  
Resolution 1 (Geographic Pay) – Not adopted  
Resolution 2 (Publishing Percentage of Supported WFSE Grievances Approved for Arbitration) – Not adopted.  
Resolution 13 (Climate Change) – Not adopted (after a standing 64-66 vote that followed respectful and nuanced debate centering on the coal terminal in Bellingham).

Also, Resolution 4 on the Selection Process for the Council 28 Statewide Grievance Committee was ruled out of order as unconstitutional.



### Locals urged to keep up support for Foundation for Working Families' hardship, disaster relief funds

Locals at the convention were applauded and challenged to keep up the financial support of the hardship and disaster relief fund run by the Foundation for Working Families.

The Washington State Labor Council oversees the foundation.

Roberta Cornelson of Union Home Services and a member of the Foundation for Working Families board, urged more locals to make a contribution.

If your local is interested



Cornelson

in making a contribution, e-mail Sue Keller at [sue@wfse.org](mailto:sue@wfse.org).

### MORE ONLINE

Hardship relief forms are available on the WFSE/AFSCME website at [wfse.org](http://wfse.org) > MEMBER RESOURCES > Foundation for Working Families. Direct address: <http://www.wfse.org/member-resources/foundation-for-working-families/>

All applications are based on funding availability. Priority is given to UNION members who have experienced a financial hardship and need assistance (for example: eviction notice, gas/power shut off). Assistance is limited to a maximum of or equivalent of \$500 every 12 months.

WFSE/AFSCME members have used the hardship fund the most and more than

a dozen Federation locals and the statewide union have recently made contributions to

build the fund back up.

"These people are just desperate for some help..." Cornelson told delegates Oct. 5.

"I'm just afraid that we're going to run out of money and not be able to help these people in their times of need."

"So please band together with us and come and help us."

Cornelson applauded the locals that made recent contributions: 378, 1381, 1060, 1326, 443, 976, 1381, 716, 1225, 313, 330, 2559 (with one from 862 coming).

### News briefs

#### Wage re-opener agreement won at Renton Technical College

Negotiations on the Renton Technical College wage re-opener

wrapped up Oct. 8 by Labor Advocate Jennifer Dixon and team members Colleen Arndt, Karen Noble and Sheryl Bisyak. The results were an additional .26 percent in each of the ranges with the top step being increased by 3 percent. In addition, range 1 is increased to \$9.66, which is higher than the minimum

wage.

#### PSERS hearing set

The Select Committee on Pension Policy will hold a public hearing in November on the WFSE/AFSCME-

initiated bill to add DSHS institutions workers in dangerous jobs to the PSERS retirement system.

EBH 1923 passed the House earlier this year, but never got a Senate hearing. The Legislature can take it up again in 2014. A recommendation from the SCPP would be a big boost.